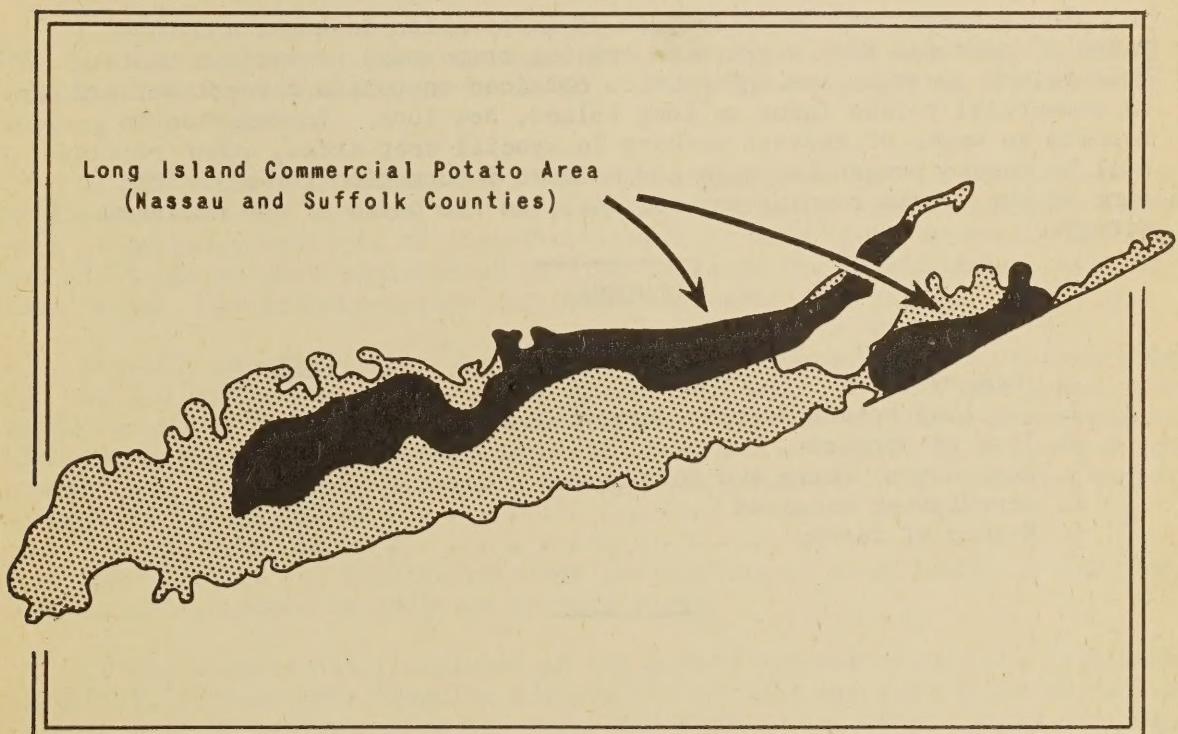


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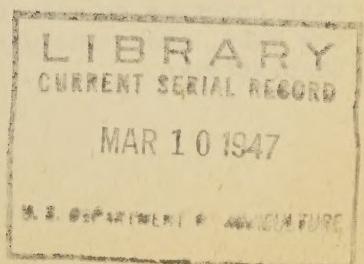
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics

WAGES AND WAGE RATES OF POTATO HARVEST WORKERS ON LONG ISLAND,
NEW YORK, WEEK ENDED SEPTEMBER 1, 1945



Surveys of Wages and Wage Rates in Agriculture, Report Number 8

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PREFATORY NOTE

This is the eighth of a series of reports to be issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics presenting results secured from new enumerative sample surveys of farm wages and farm wage rates. The surveys were planned under the general direction of Conrad Taeuber, Office of the Chief, by a Bureau-wide Committee with Louis J. Ducoff as chairman. Members of the Wage Project Committee are as follows: Glen T. Barton, Emerson M. Brooks, Charles F. Cannell, Charles A. Gibbons, Margaret Jarman Hagood, Roger F. Hale, Earl E. Houseman, Barbara R. Reagan. The State Agricultural Statisticians cooperated in conducting the field operations of the survey.

The surveys include collection of information on wages and wage rates of seasonal farm workers in special crop areas of various States. This report presents the information obtained on potato harvest workers on commercial potato farms on Long Island, New York. In addition to reports on wages of harvest workers in special crop areas, other reports will be issued presenting wage and related information for all hired farm workers, both regular and seasonal, on the basis of the national surveys.

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Prepared by Catherine Senf. Special acknowledgement is made to H. H. Campbell and W. G. Been, County Agricultural Agents in Nassau and Suffolk counties, respectively, for their generous assistance with the preliminary work of planning and organizing this survey. Members of the staffs of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and of the Farm Manpower Service, New York State War Council, assisted with numerous details of the field work and tabulating and analyzing the data, under the general supervision of R. L. Gillett, State Agricultural Statistician.

WAGES AND WAGE RATES OF POTATO HARVEST WORKERS
ON LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK, WEEK ENDED SEPTEMBER 1, 1945

SUMMARY

Estimates obtained from a survey including about a fifth of the commercial potato farms on Long Island during the last week of August 1945, indicate that about 3,000 paid workers were then employed in the potato harvest at average earnings of 79 cents per hour. With an average work week of 55 hours, the total labor wage bill for the potato harvest is estimated at \$130,000 for the survey week. This week was well past the peak of harvesting for the season, and only about half of the farms visited were doing any digging at this time.

A fourth of all workers were females and a tenth were under 18 years of age. One sixth of the labor force was made up of foreign workers, mostly imported Jamaican nationals and prisoners of war. Fifty-five percent of the domestic workers were Negroes.

Of 577 workers in the sample, 349 were employed as potato pickers, and most of these worked for a piece rate of 8 cents per bushel. Seventy-eight, all males, were principally employed as digger operators or farm truck drivers. One hundred and fifty others were employed at various tasks on the potato farms, most of them having jobs connected with the potato harvest.

One-half of all workers for whom weekly wages were reported, earned between \$40 and \$50 during the survey week. Pickers employed at piece rates had earnings of 90 cents per hour, about 40 percent higher than the corresponding earnings of pickers employed at time rates, and well above the averages for workers on other operations. All machine operators averaged 74 cents per hour and the remaining workers, 71 cents.

Over half of all workers received perquisites of considerable value, chiefly housing and produce, in addition to cash wages.

Of the workers still employed in the potato harvest during the last week of August, 31 percent were "regular workers" -- persons who were expected to have 150 or more days of employment on the reporting farm during 1945. These included 75 of the 78 machine operators but only 45 of 349 pickers. For the seasonal workers whose job duration was reported, a third of the jobs were expected to last from 3 to 6 months, a half from 1 to 3 months, and the remainder, less than 1 month.

1. THE 1945 POTATO-HARVEST SURVEY

About 20 percent of the 98 million bushels of potatoes harvested in the three eastern surplus late-potato States in 1945 was harvested from Long Island's 70,000 acres of potatoes. Concentrated on large-scale, mechanized farms, the harvest of this crop requires the services of from 3,000 to 6,000 pickers, digger operators, and other hired workers over a 4-month period of heavy harvesting extending from July to November. The 1945 crop yielded 270 bushels to the acre, which is a higher-than-average yield. The survey obtained data on the hours and earnings of harvest workers during the week ended September 1, a week typical of fairly heavy harvesting under favorable weather conditions but not ideal marketing conditions.

By September 1, more than 7,000 carlots from the 1945 crop had already been shipped by rail from the Island, and most of the Cobblers, which fill the premium early market demand, had been harvested. (In addition to rail shipments, there are heavy truck shipments to New York City and other nearby urban areas.) During the week of the survey, 692 carlots of potatoes were shipped by rail, Green Mountains being the principal variety under harvest. This week marked the beginning of large Government purchases which were made under the price-support program to offset a rapidly declining market.

From 83 potato farms which were employing hired labor for potato harvesting during the survey week, records were obtained on 580 hired workers, or about a fifth of all workers employed on farms in the Long Island potato harvest during the last week of August. The sample potato farms had an average of 108 acres of potatoes. This is higher than the average for all potato farms on Long Island because of the method of drawing the sample which was planned to obtain a maximum of information on hired workers, and to omit entirely the small farms employing only family labor. About half of the farms originally drawn for the sample were doing no digging during the survey week. The distribution of the other 83 farms in the sample, by acres of potatoes, and the corresponding distribution of workers is as follows:

Acres of Potatoes	:	Number of Farms	:	Total Number of Workers	:	Average Workers per Farm
Total		83		580 1/		7
10 - 49		17		56		3
50 - 99		27		174		6
100 - 149		22		158		7
150 - 199		9		102		11
200 and over		8		90		11

1/ This is the total number of workers on sample farms. Totals appearing in later tables will be slightly smaller because not all items were reported for all workers.

2. TYPE OF WORKERS

On practically all Long Island potato farms, potatoes are dug with a tractor-powered digger, often operated by a regular year-round employee or by the farm operator himself. Many of the diggers take out two rows at once. This operation requires considerable care, to avoid excessive cutting or bruising of tubers. It must also be well timed with the work of pickers to prevent spoilage of potatoes from too long exposure to the sun. As picking crews on Long Island were seldom large enough to keep up with a continuously operating digger, the digger operators often filled in part of their time picking up potatoes or loading sacks onto trucks.

An attachment to the digger has been developed to mechanize the picking of potatoes, and its use has been increasing on Long Island in recent years. This mechanical picker, with the help of 6 or 7 workers, lifts the potatoes to a moving belt, separates the dirt and trash, and deposits the potatoes in sacks. Probably potatoes are still hand picked on at least half of all potato farms on Long Island.

Often the loading of potatoes is done by the pickers, except that women do not undertake this task. Occasionally persons are hired specifically for work as loaders. Grading is an incidental operation which is done on the farm in Nassau County and usually in the shipping sheds in Suffolk County. When done on the farm it is performed by any available farm help.

In the tables given in this report, "pickers" include persons picking up potatoes only and those picking and loading. "Machine operators" include digger operators and drivers of farm trucks, and "other workers" include loaders, graders, persons engaged in various combinations of picking potatoes with other work, and a few persons working on other crops on the potato farms surveyed.

Table 1: Distribution of Hired Workers on Each Operation by Source, Race, Sex, Age and Duration of Employment, Long Island Potato Farms, Week Ended September 1, 1945.

Item Reported	All		Pickers		Machine		Other				
	Operations	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Operators	Number	Percent	Workers	Number	Percent
Total Reporting Source	550	100		322	100	78	100	150	100	100	
Local	321	58		132	41	77	99	112	75		
Migratory	137	25		122	38	1	1	14	9		
Prisoners of War . . .	19	4		10	3	-	-	9	6		
Other Foreign 1/ . . .	73	13		58	18	-	-	15	10		
Total Reporting Race (Excl. Foreign Workers)	458	100		254	100	78	100	126	100	100	
White	206	45		67	26	34	44	105	83		
Negro	252	55		187	74	44	56	21	17		

(Table continued on Page 4)

Table 1: Distribution of Hired Workers on Each Operation by Source, Race, Sex, Age and Duration of Employment, Long Island Potato Farms, Week Ended September 1, 1945. (Concluded)

Item Reported	All Operations		Pickers		Machine Operators		Other Workers	
	: Number	: Percent	: Number	: Percent	: Number	: Percent	: Number	: Percent
Total Reporting Sex	572	100	344	100	78	100	150	100
Males	426	74	234	68	78	100	114	76
Females	146	26	110	32	-	-	36	24
Total Reporting Age 2/	438	100	229	100	78	100	131	100
Under 18	50	11	15	7	3	4	32	24
18 and over	388	89	214	93	75	96	99	76
Total Reporting Duration of Employment	577	100	349	100	78	100	150	100
Regular (150 days & over)	178	31	45	13	75	96	58	39
Seasonal (Less than 150 days)	399	69	304	87	3	4	92	61
75 - 149 days	101	18	72	21	2	3	27	18
30 - 74 days	123	21	99	28	1	1	23	15
1 - 29 days	42	7	17	5	-	-	25	17
Days not specified 3/	133	23	116	33	-	-	17	11

1/ Other foreign workers include 65 Jamaican nationals and 8 Mexican nationals imported for railroad work who spent part time on farms.

2/ Information was not requested for workers reported in crews, of whom there were 133, including mostly Negro migratory workers, but also including all war prisoners in the sample. A few workers not employed in crews, for whom age was not reported, are also omitted from this table.

3/ Includes only crew workers, who are practically all seasonally employed and for whom information on duration of employment was not requested.

Fifty-eight percent of the hired workers employed on sample farms were locally resident workers (that is, those residing in the county where employed) and a fourth were migratory workers. Migrants were mostly Negro pickers from Florida and other southern States, some of whom make an annual circuit of East coast potato- and vegetable-producing areas from Florida to Maine. 1/ Thirteen percent were imported foreign workers and 4 percent were prisoners of war.

1/ A survey made in two other New York special-crop areas by the State College of Agriculture, at about the same time as the survey reported here, found that Negro workers recruited by labor contractors for work in these areas had travelled an average of nearly 1,500 miles to their jobs. White workers had travelled an average of about 100 miles. This survey is reported in "Farm Labor Contractors in New York, 1944 and 1945," T. N. Hurd, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, N. Y. State College of Agriculture.

Excluding the imported foreign workers, 45 percent of the remaining workers were white, and 55 percent Negro. Negroes accounted for 74 percent of the pickers and 56 percent of the machine operators.

Three-fourths of all workers in the sample were males, and nine-tenths were 18 years of age or over. Women were found among both local and migratory groups, and in both race groups.

Table 2: Distribution of Hired Workers not Reported in Crews by Race and Source and Age and Sex, Long Island Potato Farms, Week Ended September 1, 1945 1/

Sex and Age	: Reporting: : Source	White : Local	White : Migratory	: Negro : Local	: Negro : Migratory	: Foreign 2/
Reporting Age and Sex						
Number	430	181	5	106	73	65
Percent	100	100	100	100	100	100
All Males (Percent)	77	70	80	81	67	100
Males under 18 years	7	14	-	3	3	-
Males 18-44 years	61	45	60	70	56	97
Males 45 and over	9	11	20	8	8	3
All Females (Percent)	23	30	20	19	33	-
Females under 18 years	5	11	-	-	-	-
Females 18-44 years	15	14	20	16	30	-
Females 45 and over	3	5	-	3	3	-
Males & Females (Percent)	100	100	100	100	100	100
Under 18 years	12	25	-	3	3	-
18-44 years	76	59	80	86	86	97
45 and over	12	16	20	11	11	3

1/ Information was not requested on age of workers reported in crews, of whom there were 133, mostly Negro migratory workers.

2/ Includes imported nationals and prisoners of war.

Farmers employing migratory workers expected to have less than 3 months of employment for most of them (assuming that crew workers are usually not employed for over 3 months). They expected employment for most of their local workers to last 6 months or more. Most of the machine operators were men with expected job duration of 150 days or more. Only 10 percent of all workers with reports on duration of employment were expected to have less than 30 days work on the reporting farm.

Table 3: Duration of Employment by Race and Source of Workers, and Size of Employing Farm (Acres of Potatoes), Long Island Potato Farms, Week Ended September 1, 1945.

Item Reported	Reporting Source	Seasonal Workers										Seasonal Workers										
		Regular Workers					Seasonal Workers					Regular Workers					Seasonal Workers					
		Duration of Employment		(150 Days or Over)			(Less than 150 Days)		(150 Days)			days		days			days		days			
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Local Migratory Foreign		547	100	178	33	369	67	97	119	42	111	321	100	167	52	154	48	24	72	30	28	
Reporting Race (excluding Foreign Workers)		445	100	169	38	276	62	62	106	34	74	134	100	2	1	132	99	38	34	4	56	
White Negro		198	100	95	48	103	52	23	44	30	6	247	100	74	30	173	70	39	62	4	68	
Workers on Farms Reporting Size		577	100	178	31	399	69	101	123	42	133	10 - 49 Acres of Potatoes	56	100	9	16	47	84	11	26	1	9
		50 - 99 "	"	"	"	171	100	39	23	132	77	100 - 149 "	158	100	61	39	97	61	19	24	3	51
		150 - 199 "	"	"	"	102	100	36	35	66	65	200 & Over "	90	100	33	37	57	63	27	10	-	42

1/ Includes only crew workers, who are practically all seasonally employed, and for whom information on duration of employment was not requested.

The larger potato farms, in addition to hiring more workers, also provided jobs generally lasting longer than those on smaller farms. Thus while 31 percent of all jobs were reported as regular jobs (to last 150 days or more), 37 percent of the jobs on farms having 100 acres or more of potatoes, were of this duration. Nearly all of the 42 jobs of less than a month's duration were on farms having less than 100 acres of potatoes.

Six percent of all hired farm workers in the survey were related to the operator. Less than 2 percent were World War II veterans.

3. WAGE RATES, HOURS AND EARNINGS

Data on hours and earnings were obtained from 543 workers, who had average cash earnings of 79 cents per hour during the survey week. With 9.4 hours of work per day, they had an average daily cash wage of \$7.40, for the days on which work was done.

Table 4: Time Worked and Hourly and Daily Cash Earnings of Piece and Time Workers, Long Island Potato Farms, Week Ended September 1, 1945.

Type of Workers	: Number : : of : : Workers:	: Hours : : Hourly : : Earnings:	: Worked : : Daily : : per Day: Earnings
All Workers Reporting Method of Payment	543	\$.79	9.4
Piece Workers	283	.93	9.2
Time Workers	260	.67	9.6
Potato Pickers Reporting Method of Payment	315	.84	9.4
Piece Workers	242	.90	9.4
Time Workers	73	.64	9.5

Hourly earnings of workers paid piece rates differed widely from earnings of workers paid time rates - 93 cents for all piece workers and 67 cents for all time workers. These two groups include persons engaged on different operations: piece workers are almost exclusively potato pickers, although there were a few piece workers engaged in other operations such as loading potatoes and picking lima beans on potato farms. (The latter are classed as "other workers" in this report, and thus all references to pickers refer to potato pickers only.)

A fourth of the pickers, all of the machine operators, and a large proportion of the remaining workers were paid time rates. A comparison of the piece and time rate pickers shows the piece workers earning 90 cents an hour or 26 cents more than the time rate pickers.

Table 5: Piece-rate Potato Pickers: Distribution by Rates Received, and Related Information, Long Island Potato Farms, Week Ended September 1, 1945.

Rate per Bushel	:	Number of Workers	:	Percent of Total
Total reporting rate		261	1/	100
\$.07		8		3
.08		179		69
.09		53		20
.10		21		8

Related information for piece-rate pickers:

Average rate per bushel 2/	\$.082
Average hourly earnings	\$.90
Average number of bushels picked per hour	11.0

1/ This number exceeds the number of piece-rate pickers in Table 4, because of the inclusion of some additional workers for whom the rate per bushel, but not total earnings, was reported.

2/ Weighted by number of bushels picked.

The average of 90 cents an hour for piece-rate pickers resulted from rates of 7 to 10 cents per bushel, with most workers receiving 8 cents per bushel. The difference in bushel rates depends partly on whether or not loading is done in addition to picking, pickers who do that work usually receiving the higher rates. The average performance of piece-rate pickers was 11.0 bushels per hour, the average cost (or weighted average rate) 8.2 cents per bushel.

Table 6: Distribution of Workers Paid Time Rates by Operation and Unit of Payment, Long Island Potato Farms, Week Ended September 1, 1945.

Unit of Payment	: Total with : Unit of Payment: Reported	Number of Pickers	: Number of Machine Operators	: Number of Other Workers
All Units	260	73	78	109
Hour	15	15	-	-
Day	71	24	6	41
Week	160	34	66	60
Month	14	-	6	8

About 60 percent of the workers paid time rates received a weekly wage, a very common type of rate paid farm workers in the Northeastern states. Nearly 30 percent were paid day rates. A few pickers were paid by the hour, and a few machine operators and other workers, by the month.

Table 7: Time Worked and Hourly and Daily Cash Earnings by Size of Potato Acreage on Employing Farm, Long Island Potato Farms, Week Ended September 1, 1945

Acres of Potatoes	: Number of Workers	: Hourly Earnings	: Hours Worked per Day	: Daily Earnings
All farms	543	\$.79	9.4	\$7.40
10 - 49 acres	56	.63	9.3	5.90
50 - 99 acres	163	.81	9.2	7.40
100 - 149 acres	139	.81	9.5	7.80
150 acres & over	185	.79	9.5	7.50

Cash wages were smallest for workers on the smallest farms, and largest for those on the largest farms, but no significant trend was found between these extremes.

Table 8: Time Worked and Hourly and Daily Cash Earnings by Operation, Long Island Potato Farms, Week Ended September 1, 1945

Operation	: Number of Workers	: Hourly Earnings	: Hours Worked per Day	: Daily Earnings
All operations	543	\$.79	9.4	\$7.40
Pickers 1/	315	.84	9.4	7.90
Machine operators 2/	78	.74	9.5	7.00
Other workers 3/	150	.71	9.3	6.60

1/ Includes some workers who picked and loaded.

2/ Includes digger operators and farm truck drivers.

3/ Includes loaders, graders, and all other workers on potato farms.

A comparison of the earnings of pickers, machine operators, and other workers shows all pickers averaging 10 cents more per hour in cash wages than machine operators and 13 cents more than other workers. Daily earnings reflect the same differentials as hourly earnings since the average length of workday is very nearly the same - around $9\frac{1}{2}$ hours - for workers in each of the three operation groups.

Table 9: Time Worked and Hourly and Daily Cash Earnings of Potato Pickers and Machine Operators by Source of Workers, Long Island Potato Farms, Week Ended September 1, 1945

Source of Workers	: Number of Workers	: Hourly Earnings	: Hours Worked per Day	: Daily Earnings
All Pickers				
Reporting Source	274	\$.81	9.4	\$7.60
Local	101	.67	9.4	6.20
Migratory	105	.90	9.8	8.80
Prisoners of War	10	.55	8.5	4.70
Other Foreign 1/	58	.96	8.9	8.60
All Machine Operators				
Reporting Source	78	.74	9.5	7.00
Local	77	.74	9.5	7.00
Migratory	1	.89	9.0	6.00

1/ Includes 50 Jamaican nationals, and 8 Mexican nationals imported for railroad work who spent part time on farms.

The pickers on sample farms included 10 war prisoners, all employed on one farm, at 55 cents per hour. This does not represent the entire cost to the farmer, however, nor the money received by the worker. Growers using prisoners or imported foreign workers pay, in addition to the "prevailing rate", transportation and service fees, amounting usually to \$1 or less per man per day. Groups of growers who contract with the Government for the use of prisoners or imported nationals must also guarantee a fixed amount of employment (such as 75 percent of the time for a 2-month period). The wages of prisoners are paid to the Government, which in turn pays the prisoners 80 cents per day.

Although imported workers are paid at prevailing rates, most of those in the sample were working for piece rates and were thus able to make higher average hourly earnings than domestic workers.

Domestic local pickers had hourly earnings considerably lower than domestic migratory pickers. 2/ The difference, 23 cents per hour, is about the same as that between time and piece workers. White and Negro pickers also show a difference of 14 cents in hourly earnings, with Negroes getting 81 cents and whites 67 cents. All these differences are of course interrelated, and arise from the fact that the principal groups entering these categories are Negro migratory workers and white local workers, and that the former usually work for piece rates, the latter more often for weekly rates.

2/ The term "domestic" refers to non-foreign workers.

Table 10: Time Worked and Hourly and Daily Cash Earnings of Potato Pickers and Machine Operators by Race, Long Island Potato Farms, Week Ended September 1, 1945

Race of Worker	: Number of Workers	: Hourly Earnings	: Hours Worked per Day	: Daily Earnings
All pickers				
reporting race 1/	206	\$.78	9.6	\$7.40
Domestic White	47	.67	8.9	5.90
Domestic Negro	159	.81	9.8	7.90
All Machine Operators				
reporting race	78	.74	9.5	7.00
Domestic White	34	.76	9.4	7.20
Domestic Negro	44	.73	9.5	6.90

1/Excluding foreign workers.

Daily wages of Negro pickers exceed those of white pickers by \$2, as the Negroes, in addition to having higher hourly earnings, work about 1 hour more per day. More than half of the machine operators were Negroes, and they had earnings only slightly below those of white machine operators.

Table 11: Time Worked and Cash Earnings by Operation and Sex, for Workers not Reported in Crews, Long Island Potato Farms, Week Ended September 1, 1945 1/

Type of Work, Rate, and Sex	:Number of Workers	Earnings on reporting farm:	Time worked on reporting farm				
		Hourly:	Daily	Weekly	Hours per day:	Days per week:	Hours per week:
Piece-rate pickers reporting sex	76	\$.75	\$7.20	\$39.40	9.6	5.4	53
Males	44	.83	8.00	43.50	9.7	5.4	53
Females	32	.66	6.10	33.80	9.4	5.5	52
Time-rate pickers reporting sex	63	.65	6.20	35.70	9.6	5.7	55
Males	52	.65	6.30	36.90	9.7	5.8	57
Females	11	.62	5.50	30.10	8.9	5.4	49
Machine Operators	78	.74	7.00	42.20	9.5	6.0	57
Males	78	.74	7.00	42.20	9.5	6.0	57
Females	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Workers reporting sex	94	.62	6.00	33.90	9.6	5.7	54
Males	87	.63	6.00	34.50	9.6	5.7	55
Females	7	.57	5.40	26.00	9.3	4.9	45

1/ Weekly earnings are not available for workers reported in crews. The excluded group is made up mostly of Negro male piece-work pickers. All prisoners of war in the sample were also reported in crews and are excluded.

Weekly hours and earnings are available only for those workers who were not reported in crews, who include about 300 workers. (The number varies slightly for different items because not all workers were classifiable with respect to all items.) The excluded workers were mostly Negro piece-work pickers, and they had higher average hourly earnings than the remaining Negro piece-work pickers. Thus the data in tables 11 and 12 are more reliable in indicating differentials in wages than in indicating actual levels of wages.

Average weekly earnings of males range roughly between \$35 and \$45 for the various operation groups, with "other workers", time-rate pickers, machine operators, and piece-work pickers having successively higher weekly earnings. Wages of females on the different operations range from \$26 to \$34 and appear in the same increasing order although there were no female machine operators. Women had lower hourly earnings and a shorter work week than men.

All data on hours and earnings are for the hours and earnings "on the reporting farm", but as all categories of workers show an average of 45 or more hours for the week, it is unlikely that the total hours and earnings exceed by very much the hours and earnings on the reporting farm.

Table 12: Time Worked and Cash Earnings of Regular and Seasonal Workers not Reported in Crews, by Operation, Long Island Potato Farms, Week Ended September 1, 1945 1/

Type of Workers	Number of Workers	Earnings on Reporting Farm	Time Worked on Reporting Farm				
		Hourly	Daily	Weekly	Hours per Day	Days per Week	Hours per Week
2/	Workers	:	:	:	:		

All Operations

Regular	167	\$.69	\$6.70	\$40.10	9.7	6.0	58
Seasonal	145	.69	6.50	35.20	9.4	5.4	51

Pickers

Regular	34	.66	6.50	39.00	9.8	6.0	59
Seasonal	106	.72	6.90	37.70	9.5	5.4	52

Machine Operators

Regular	75	.74	7.00	42.30	9.5	6.0	57
Seasonal	3	.78	6.80	40.70	8.7	6.0	52

Other Workers

Regular	58	.64	6.30	37.90	9.8	6.0	59
Seasonal	36	.58	5.30	27.40	9.2	5.1	47

- 1/ Weekly earnings are not available for workers reported in crews. The excluded group is made up of seasonal workers, mostly pickers. All prisoners of war in the sample are among those excluded.
- 2/ Regular workers are those with 150 or more days' work expected on the reporting farm during the year; seasonal workers are those with less than 150 days' work expected on the reporting farm during the year.

Weekly hours and earnings were computed separately for regular and seasonal workers not reported in crews. Regular workers (those who were to have 150 or more days of work on the reporting farm during the year) worked on the average 6 days during the survey week, regardless of the type of work. Seasonal workers averaged a somewhat shorter week and a shorter work day. Thus their weekly earnings were somewhat lower than those of regular workers even though most of them had higher hourly earnings.

Table 13: Distribution of Workers by Hourly Cash Earnings and Operation, for Workers not Reported in Crews, Long Island Potato Farms, Week Ended September 1, 1945

Hourly Earnings	Number of Workers					
	Total	Piece-work : Pickers	Time-work : Pickers	Machine Operators	Other Workers	
Total	311	76	63	78		94
Less than \$.25	1	-	-	-		1
\$.25 - \$.34	2	-	-	-		2
.35 - .44	13	2	-	1		10
.45 - .54	28	9	5	3		11
.55 - .64	54	12	14	6		22
.65 - .74	99	14	38	25		22
.75 - .84	75	14	6	32		23
.85 - .94	26	17	-	6		3
.95 - 1.04	7	2	-	5		-
1.05 - 1.14	2	2	-	-		-
1.15 and over	4	4	-	-		-

The hourly earnings of individual workers ranged from 20 cents to \$1.55, with about 90 percent of all workers earning between 50 cents and \$1 per hour. Piece-work pickers showed the greatest range in hourly earnings and time-work pickers, the smallest. Most of the latter earned between 65 and 75 cents per hour. Three-fourths of the machine operators earned between 65 and 85 cents per hour. A third of the other workers earned less than 60 cents per hour, but it will be noted in the next section that this group more often than any other, received board and room in addition to cash wages.

Table 14: Distribution of Workers by Hours Worked During Week and Operations, for Workers not Reported in Crews, Long Island Potato Farms, Week Ended September 1, 1945

Hours Worked : During Week on: Reporting Farm:	Number of Workers					
	Total	Piece-work : Pickers	Time-work : Pickers	Machine Operators	Other Workers	
Total	311	76	63	78		94
15 - 24	14	3	4	-		7
25 - 34	7	6	-	-		1
35 - 44	16	7	3	3		3
45 - 54	69	19	6	21		23
55 - 64	195	35	50	54		56
65 - 74	10	6	-	-		4

The average for all workers not reported in crews was 55 hours of work on the reporting farm during the survey week. Only 10 persons worked 65 or more hours.

Table 15: Distribution of Workers by Weekly Cash Earnings and Operations, for Workers not Reported in Crews, Long Island Potato Farms, Week Ended September 1, 1945

Weekly Earnings on Report- ing Farm	Number of Workers				
	Total	Piece-Work : Pickers	Time-Work : Pickers	Machine Operators	Other Workers
Total	311	76	63	78	94
Under \$15	6	2	-	-	4
\$15 - \$19	12	2	4	-	6
20 - 24	18	5	3	-	10
25 - 29	19	4	3	2	10
30 - 34	45	10	10	8	17
35 - 39	32	8	14	3	7
40 - 44	93	13	29	28	23
45 - 49	61	20	-	29	12
50 - 54	17	7	-	6	4
55 - 59	1	-	-	-	1
60 - 64	5	3	-	2	-
65 - 69	2	2	-	-	-

Weekly cash earnings for all workers not reported in crews ranged from \$10 to \$70 for the survey week. Nearly a third of the sample workers had weekly earnings between \$40 and \$45. The earnings most frequently reported for piece-rate pickers were between \$45 and \$50 a week, and for time-rate pickers, between \$40 and \$45. None of the time-rate pickers had weekly earnings of over \$45. The great majority of machine operators had earnings of \$40 to \$50. Earnings of other workers showed wide variations, reflecting the variety of jobs and types of workers in this category.

In addition to the cash wages reported in the preceding tables, 5 of the machine operators had agreements with their employers calling for end-of-season bonuses amounting to \$8 to \$12 per week for the harvest season. It was reported that some pickers would also receive end-of-season bonuses. Others received various items in addition to cash wages, as discussed in the next section.

4. PERQUISITES RECEIVED

Workers received a variety of perquisites in addition to cash wages. House or lodging was the most frequently reported and probably the item of greatest value. Only 6 percent received board and room ("house or lodging and meals"), and these included 1 percent of the pickers, 9 percent of the machine operators, and 15 percent of the other workers.

Table 16: Percentage of Hired Workers Receiving Specified Perquisites, Long Island Potato Farms, Week Ended September 1, 1945

Item	All		Machine		Other
	Operations	Pickers	Operators		Workers
Reporting on perquisites					
Number	554	326	78		150
Percent	100	100	100		100
Percent receiving:					
House or lodging and meals 1/	6	1	9		15
House or lodging without meals	23	23	49		11
Other perquisites 2/	33	29	19		48
No perquisites	38	47	23		26

1/ "Meals" are defined as "2 or more regular meals per day."

2/ The principal other perquisites reported, in order of frequency, are transportation, vegetables, lunches, milk, fuel.

About half of the machine operators and a fourth of the pickers were provided with house or lodging, without meals. Other perquisites received were often of considerable value. Many workers received potatoes and vegetables. The item most often reported for those not receiving house or lodging was transportation to and from work. Some workers were furnished lunches or refreshments, and a few received milk or fuel.

Nearly half of the pickers were reported to have been furnished no perquisites. About a fourth of the remaining workers received none.

Table 17: Comparison of Cash Earnings of Workers Receiving House or Lodging with Those not Receiving House or Lodging, by Operation, for Workers not Reported in Crews, Long Island Potato Farms, Week Ended September 1, 1945

Type of Earnings	All Operations	Piece-Work Pickers	Time-Work Pickers	Machine Operators	Other Workers
Hourly earnings without house or lodging	\$.71	\$.77	\$.63	\$.79	\$.65
Hourly earnings with house or lodging	.65	.62 1/	.69 1/	.71	.56
Daily earnings without house or lodging	6.80	7.40	6.20	7.40	6.20
Daily earnings with house or lodging	6.20	5.90 1/	6.30 1/	6.70	5.50
Weekly earnings without house or lodging	38.20	40.70	35.20	44.80	34.40
Weekly earnings with house or lodging	36.60	30.20 1/	37.20 1/	40.30	32.80

1/ Based on reports for fewer than 20 workers.

For workers on all operations, those not receiving house or lodging had hourly earnings about 10 percent above the earnings of those receiving house or lodging. By operations, the comparison is most significant for machine operators and "other workers", for whom there is a sizable sample in the "with house" and "without house" categories. Machine operators not furnished housing earned 79 cents per hour, compared with 71 cents for those who received house or lodging. This resulted in average weekly wages \$4.50 higher for the former group. "Other workers" showed the greatest differential in the hourly earnings of those receiving and not receiving house or lodging. Those with house earned an average of 56 cents per hour, the lowest earnings found in the analysis for any group of workers except the war prisoners, who earned 55 cents per hour as indicated in table 9. The low hourly rate of these "other workers" was partly offset by a longer work week, so that their weekly earnings were only \$1.60 below those of "other workers" not receiving house.

5. METHOD OF SURVEY

Data were obtained from a sample of farms having 10 or more acres of potatoes. There are about 1,000 of these commercial potato producers in the two agricultural counties of Long Island, with four times as many farms and acres in Suffolk County as in Nassau County. The sample was obtained by canvassing all such growers in 22 segments or small areas throughout the principal potato-producing sections of the Island, a fourth of all segments into which these sections were divided. W. G. Been, county agent of Suffolk County, assisted in delineating the areas to be sampled.

Sample segments were selected by taking every fourth segment in geographical sequence starting in Nassau County and going east to the limits of the producing area on the north and south forks of the Island. This provides a cross-section of all sizes and types of commercial potato farms.

Nearly all commercial potato growers use hired labor for the harvest but not all are harvesting during any selected week in the harvest period. About half of the visited growers had no harvest labor to report for the last week in August, either because harvesting had been completed previously or because it was being delayed to await more favorable market conditions.